History of John Bennett Hawkins and Sarah Moulton Hawkins, his wife

John Bennett Hawkins born Nov.16, and christened Dec. 4, 1825 in Flaxley, Gloucester, England, son of William Hawkins and Mary Bennett. He married 5 Dec. 1856 Sarah Moulton in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born 5 March 1837 in Irchester, Northampton, England, daughter of Thomas Moulton and Esther Marsh. Sarah died 2 May 1885 in Salt Lake City. John Bennett Hawkins married a second wife Emma A. Hawkins. Emma died 6 March 1895 in Salt Lake City. She was born as far as is known 15 May 1830 in Hereford City, England and baptized 15 June 1887 by brother Scofield. John Bennett Hawkins died 12 April 1898 in Salt Lake City of chronic pneumonia at 73 years of age.

William Hawkins, father of John Bennett Hawkins was born 14 June 1797. Exact place of birth in Gloucester, England not confirmed though 1851 census records indicates he was born in Lydney. Other family records have indicated Flaxley or Longhope though a check of the Flaxley Parish records at the Genealogy Library showed no record of William Hawkins. Parish records of those other places are not on file at present in the Library. 1841 census records of Lydney indicates William's mother's name as Elizabeth (75 to 79 years of age in 1841). She was born in Gloucester, England(no town indicated). William Hawkins married Mary Bennett 21 Sept. 1825 in Flaxley and died 16 August 1864 in Lydney and is buried in St. Mary's Church burial grounds in Lydney.

Mary Bennett, mother of John Bennett Hawkins, was propably christened 19 January 1800 in Flaxley, Gloucester, England, daughter of Thomas Bennett and Hannah Burcher as Flaxley records indicate. 1851 Census records indicate Mary was born in Lydney, therefore until check of Lydney records is made to see if a Mary Bennett was born there about the same time, this information from Flaxley cannot be fully accepted. Family records indicate Mary's birth as 19 January 1800(the same as the christening date in Flaxley). Flaxley records show Mary Bennett as being the fourth child of a family of 9 born to Thomas Bennett and Hannah Burcher. Mary died 4 January 1877 and is buried also in the St.Mary's Church House burial grounds in Lydney.

John Bennett Hawkins joined the Church in England(being the only member of his family who joined) and was baptized 2 February 1849 by William Hawkins,(relationship of William Hawkins to John Bennett Hawkins not known). John Bennett Hawkins was naturalized 1 May 1869 Minute Book A Pg.511. Witness A.N.Hill. and Robert Shelton. John Bennett Hawkins left Council Bluffs 3 May 1852. He was one of the pioneer Blacksmiths in the early days coming here August 12, 1852. He was also a guard in Echo Canyon at the time of Johnson's Army, until President Brigham Young received word that they would go through peacefully to Fort Bridger. He first married Sarah Moulton, eldest daughter of Thomas Moulton. John Bennett Hawkins was was a member of the rescue party sent out by President Young when some missionaries returning from England, overtook and passed the Willey's handcart Company and reported its plight to the church presidency in Salt Lake City. Sarah Moulton and her family were in the Willey's Handcart Company, coming here in Nov. 1856. She pulled a handcart across the plains. Her half brother was born near the Irish Channel, while they were coming across the Atlantic. She was on the sea 6 weeks, crossing in a sailing vessel. Her folks started with a large stock of goods, but had to leave leave some on the way. The son was born the second day they were on the water. (see Thomas Moulton history also).

Sarah Moulton and John Bennett Hawkins made their home as far as is known from that time of their marriage until about 1871 on Main Street in the 14th Ward. He went in business just below Second South and Main Street (S.L.C.) at his trade as a blacksmith. Page 58 of Book A2 Salt Lake County Land Records shows John Hawkins as being the original owner of property in lot 8 Block 58 Plat A Salt Lake City Survey. His property is the first entry on Line 1. It was filed 1 May (1855?) It included 30 square rods with a 3 rod front on the west side of main street 7 rods south of of second south. As far as is known six children were born unto them while living there; they were William who passed away the same day as he was born, Sarah Ann, Mary Elizabeth, John Moulton, and the twins, Ester Emily, and Eliza Jane who died either the 7th or 9th of September 1869.